

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN DISCUSSES THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SELF INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL VALUES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, standing at the dawn of the new millennium, we have an incredible opportunity to create a more peaceful, more humane, and more orderly world. We are entering a new era in which previously ignored social issues must be addressed. In today's increasingly globalized world, we have seen remarkable advances in trade and technology. The time has come, however, when the new global economy must embrace social responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, the Secretary General of the United Nations, my dear friend Kofi Annan, addressed a number of these issues in an important message last month. He discussed the fundamental partnership between business and human rights and the importance of having international values and principles to guide our global economy. The United Nations is an extremely important element of our nation's foreign policy and it plays a fundamental role in enhancing respect for the rights of women and men around the globe as well as enhancing the value of human life.

The Secretary General addressed these issues in a message to the Workshop "Today and Tomorrow: Outlook for Corporate Strategies" which was organized by the Ambrosetti firm and was held this September in Cernobbio, Italy, under the leadership of my friend Alfredo Ambrosetti.

Mr. Speaker, the message of the Secretary General to the conference is most appropriate to consider as we face the new millennium. I offer the message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give it serious and thoughtful attention.

[Message of Secretary General Kofi Annan to the Workshop]

TODAY AND TOMORROW: OUTLOOK FOR CORPORATE STRATEGIES

It gives me great pleasure to convey my greetings to all who have gathered for the Villa d'Este workshop, which this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. Congratulations on this milestone.

You have gathered to examine a global predicament that is deeply ambivalent. Peace spreads in one region while violence rages in another. Unprecedented wealth coexists with terrible deprivation, as a quarter of the world's people remain mired in poverty. Through it all we can see the contours of a new global fabric taking shape. The globalization of markets, technology, finance and information is defining new realities, re-shaping our notions of sovereignty and challenging us to reconsider many of the assumptions that have guided policy-making until now.

As you know globalization is under intense pressure. And the multilateral trading system is in the line of fire. The problem is not with trade or transnational companies or market per se; the trading system is one of the great success stories of the past half century. Rather the problem seems to be that

while so much has been done to make the trading system the success it is, other urgent issues—such as safeguarding the environment, protecting human rights and ensuring labour standards—have failed to attract similar attention.

The result is a serious imbalance on the international agenda. We have a global trading system with potentially strong governance and a strong institution—the World Trade Organization. Strong, if universal and if the most powerful countries comply with the rules. Strong, also, if we avoid saddling the trade regime with a load it cannot bear conditionalities—and instead build bridges between trade and environment, between trade and labour, between trade and human rights. We need to strengthen the pillars of global governance in these areas. After all, a bridge cannot rest on only one pillar.

It was with this in mind that I proposed, earlier this year at the World Economic Forum in Davos, a "Global Compact" between the United Nations and the world business community. The Compact asks the international business community to advocate for a stronger United Nations. It asks individual businesses to protect human rights within their sphere of influence, support the abolition of child labour, adopt a precautionary approach to environmental challenges and take other such steps which, of course, also make good business sense. The Compact offers a practical way forward to reconciling one of the key questions in the debate on globalization: how to sustain open markets while meeting the socio-economic needs of societies. It envisages business doing what it does best—creating jobs and wealth—while rooting the global market in universal values and giving the global market more of a human face.

It may not seem fair that business should be called upon to undertake such initiatives, but in today's globalizing world, economic power and social responsibility cannot be separated. This issue—and in particular the risk of protectionism and other unwelcome interventions—will not go away unless business is committed, and seen to be committed, to global corporate citizenship. Just as national markets reflect the values, laws and rules of a given society, so must the new global economy be guided by an international consensus on values and principles.

I have been speaking of "business" as if it were some monolithic presence in the world economy. In the end we are talking to individual businessmen and businesswomen with the power to influence the world for the better. Let us remember that the global markets and the multilateral trading system we have today did not come about by accident. They are the result of enlightened policy choices. If we want to maintain them in the new century, all of us—governments, corporations, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations—have to make the right choices now. We have an opportunity to usher in an age of global prosperity comparable to that enjoyed by the industrialized countries in the decades after the Second World War. We will tip the scales to the positive only if we work together and, in particular, only if the leaders amongst us step forward and do their part. In that hopeful spirit, please accept my best wishes for a successful workshop.

CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization. While I have strong feelings on the issue of Taiwan's status in the world, I know there are some who disagree with me. On the issue of the health of the Taiwanese people, I don't think there can be any disagreement. Taiwan should have full participation in the World Health Organization.

As this legislation states: "Good health is a basic right for every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to help guarantee this right." Health risks do not recognize political boundaries. Unfortunately, politics has kept Taiwan from participating in WHO activities and other international organizations and the effects of this policy have had serious repercussions.

The World Health Organization was unable to help Taiwan with a viral outbreak which killed scores of Taiwanese children and infected more than 1,000 Taiwanese children in 1998.

More recently, Taiwan was struck by an earthquake which did substantial damage to the island. The latest estimates are that just over 2,000 people have been killed and about 100,000 are homeless. In the wake of this disaster, I was shocked to read news reports about the United Nations' response. According to one report, instead of immediately harnessing its resources and heading to Taiwan to help with the relief effort, the United Nations instead sought approval from China before sending United Nations relief workers to the scene of the disaster. If this is true, lives were again needlessly put at risk.

Ensuring the health of the people of Taiwan is a commendable goal and it is time that we put their health above politics. I commend the sponsor of the legislation, Mr. BROWN, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK COWBOYS PARADE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Black Cowboys Parade held every year in Oakland, California since 1974. The parade commemorates the contributions made by African Americans and other ethnic groups to the development of the American West.

African Americans, primarily from Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, poured into California to build ships during World War II. These states were all "horse country" where African Americans had raised and trained horses. Northern California could therefore easily support the

concept of a Black Cowboys parade. Some of the original organizers and riders were Lonnie Scoggins, Booker Emery, and Mr. Wright (now in his nineties). Other cities in Oklahoma and Texas have parades celebrating Black horsemen and horsewomen, but the City of Oakland has hosted the longest continuously staged celebration.

Blacks were cowboys before they were freed from slavery. Before California even became a state, they worked on cattle ranches in southern California. At the height of the cattle driving days, it is estimated that a fourth of all cowboys were black. The Buffalo Soldiers were proud and capable men who got the toughest and longest assignments while serving on the frontier. Although they have since been criticized for fighting Indians, these largely illiterate men were recruited starting in 1866 immediately after the end of the Civil War. By 1898, they were a disciplined fighting force who saved Theodore Roosevelt on San Juan Hill in Cuba during the Spanish American War.

This parade rights the portrayal of African Americans from history and media presentations by restoring the pride of black manhood. Northern California and Bay Area horsemen and horsewomen show that blacks can ride today as well and that this history is alive. This is also important to Mexican Americans, Chinese Americans and Native American as children of every background can reclaim their history and have pride in their special contribution to the settlement of the West.

This 25 year tradition of the Black Cowboys Parade is one of the ongoing and visible efforts to restore pride in young blacks and other youngsters. We salute the work of organizations such as the Northern California Black Horsemen Association, the Black Cowboys Association and Wildcat Canyon Ranch Youth Program for their ongoing programs to educate and honor the legacy of the black cowboy today.

TRIBUTE TO RODNEY HERO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and congratulate one of my constituents, Rodney Hero. Mr. Hero is a Professor at the University of Colorado, who was recently presented with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for his book, 'Faces of Inequality: Social Diversity in American Politics'.

This distinguished annual award honors the author of the premier book published in the United States regarding government, politics or international affairs. Presented by the American Political Science Association, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award is one of the most prestigious awards in political science scholarship.

In his award-winning book, Professor Hero offers a unique social diversity theory regarding race and ethnicity in American politics. He argues that race and ethnicity significantly affect politics in all the states, not just the states with a high minority population. Professor Hero's social diversity theory challenges a 35-year-old theory regarding politics in our states.

Mr. Speaker, later this week, I will be visiting with Professor Hero and his introduction

to American Politics class. I look forward to the opportunity to join the Professor and his class for a spirited discussion on the issues facing our nation. I would like to thank Rodney Hero for the contribution he has made to the world of academia. His contribution truly exemplifies the academic commitment of Colorado's universities and colleges.

ALEXANDRIA, VA—250 YEARS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record two resolutions in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

As Alexandria's former mayor, I am now proud to represent the city as part of the Commonwealth's 8th Congressional District. This historic seaport city, an early and continuing center of political, business and social life, has drawn from its rich cultural heritage up until the present day, and in so doing has become one of the most frequently visited tourist destinations in the nation today with 1.2 million visitors annually.

To mark this special anniversary year, Alexandria has hosted hundreds of additional cultural events, concerts, symposia, tours and exhibitions, and residents and visitors alike have benefited from the valuable history lessons this great city is able to provide.

I'm sure my colleagues here today will join me in congratulating Alexandria on its long and distinguished history.

May the next 250 years be as remarkable for this very fine American city.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the site of Alexandria was occupied for several thousand years by Native Americans; and

Whereas, Captain John Smith and a party of explorers from Jamestown first visited the site of Alexandria in 1608; and

Whereas, a tobacco warehouse was established in 1730 at the foot of Oronoco Street in what is now Alexandria, and a settlement informally called Hunting Creek Warehouse grew up around the warehouse; and

Whereas, a group of Scottish merchants tried to name the area Belhaven, after Scottish patriot John Hamilton, Baron Belhaven, in 1749; and

Whereas, the Virginia House of Burgesses and Council, upon petition of other local residents, voted in May 1749 to establish a new town called Alexandria, named after the Alexander family on whose land the town was to be built; and

Whereas, Governor Gooch convened the House of Burgesses and Council in the Council Chamber on May 11, 1749, and gave his assent to the bill establishing the new town.

Now, therefore, I, Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim May 11, 1999 to be the 250th anniversary of the creation of Alexandria, Virginia.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 11th day of May 1999.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Capt. John Smith and a party of explorers from Jamestown first visited the

site that was to become Alexandria in 1608; and

WHEREAS, a tobacco warehouse was established at the foot of Oronoco Street in what is now Alexandria in 1730, and a settlement informally called Hunting Creek Warehouse grew up around the warehouse; and

WHEREAS, a group of Scottish merchants tried to name the area Belhaven in 1749; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Assembly, upon petition of other local residents, voted on May 11, 1749, to establish a new town called Alexandria, named after the Alexander family on whose land the town was to be built; and

WHEREAS, the town was created by local landowners and Scottish merchants, with the first auction of town lots occurring on July 13-14, 1749; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was the site of the adoption of the Fairfax Resolves in July of 1774 and the home town of Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and first President of the United States George Washington, and of author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and father of the U.S. Bill of Rights George Mason; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has been the home town of many people prominent in our nation's history, including Gens. Light Horse Harry Lee and Robert E. Lee, former President Gerald R. Ford, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, General Harold Spaatz, John L. Lewis, several Lords Fairfax, composer Richard Bales, musicians Jim Morrison and Mama Cass, and many Cabinet officers over the last 250 years; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was ceded to the United States to form part of the District of Columbia in 1791 and at the wish of its citizens retroceded to Virginia in 1846; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria was the site in 1939 of a sit-in demonstration at the Alexandria Public Library, in which the participants demanded equal rights of use for black and white customers; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is the site of the Alexandria Academy, which had among its three schools the Free School, established by George Washington's contribution of 50 annually to educate 20 boys and girls whose parents could not pay tuition, and which was the site of a school for children of freedmen from 1812 to 1823; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is the home of institutions of higher learning including a branch of Virginia Tech and the Northern Virginia Community College; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria has many noteworthy museums, historic sites, and tourist attractions, including the internationally-renowned Torpedo Factory Arts Center, one of the highest concentrations of 18th and early 19th century buildings in the nation, and a rich and active cultural life; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria retains the prominent role it has had since 1749 as a transportation center, by sea, road, and rail; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria will mark its 250th anniversary throughout 1999 with a year-long series of diverse programs, activities, and public events; and

WHEREAS, all residents of Alexandria can look back with pride on their city's rich history and forward with anticipation to an exciting and challenging future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend the City of Alexandria on the occasion of its 250th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Hon. Kerry J. Donley, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and best wishes for a glorious anniversary celebration.